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LET US HONOR THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE ON DECEMBER 12

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THE MEANING OF THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY ON THE HILL OF TEPEYAC

Behold the Woman, Clothed as With the Sun

By Father Edmund Gomez



As a young university student, I discovered the story of the appearance of the mother of Jesus in what was then called "New Spain", now Mexico. Not ever much of a skeptic, I enjoyed what was considered the most "biblical" of the appearances of Mary to her children in this world. The whole message and image reflect the writings of St. John, the Divine, especially from Revelation 12. It also struck me that soon into his new pon-

tificate. Pope John Paul II named her as the Empress of the Americas, continuing the European view that America is one continent, not two. What I had never known about her image was the impact she continues to hold on the people of this continent. She took into her heart the Holy Father and eventually, me.

So, what of this image? The story is quite simple, but has been given to us with great detail of Juan Diego's conversations with the Lady on the hill and such a full story, reminiscent of the story of Abraham or of Moses' encounters on Mt. Horeb. Even the site where the visions occur formerly had been a temple dedicated to the goddess, Tonantzin, whose image was covered with serpents. This point is significant - for the *mexica* people, the serpent represented their relationship with the earth as their mother. The serpent's danger only emphasized the possible evil that always fills our lives. The snatching of the serpent by the eagle (as depicted on the flag for

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 905 CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY



The Knights of Columbus Council 905 celebrated its 100th anniversary at a gala dinner at the council hall in San Bernardino, attended by members and spouses, religious leaders, and state and district dignitaries. Pictured above, California State Deputy Knight Robert Rodriguez, Bishop Gerald Barnes, San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles and 905 Grand Knight Anthony Hernandez. Photo by IEHN

The Knights of Columbus Council Hall was a scene of jubilation when local council members and their spouses were joined by religious, state and district dignitaries on the 100th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 905, a once in a lifetime celebration for many members of the local Fraternal Order. Elected officials were also in attendance at the gala dinner at the council clubhouse on Western Avenue in San Bernardino.

Reverend Gerald Barnes, Bishop of the Diocese of Riverside and San Bernardino, gave the invocation, commending the Council for its dedication to the ideals of the Knights of Columbus and its contribution to the Church, members, and its history of serving others in the community.

California State Deputy Knight Robert Rodriguez congratulated the Council on the 100th anniversary, reviewing the state and local history of the fraternal order. Rodriguez urged the members to continue the mission of their organization.

Grand Knight Anthony Hernandez received congratulatory resolutions from Congressman Joe Baca, Senator Nell Soto, Assemblyman John Longville, 5th District Supervisor Clifford Young, and Mayor Judith Valles.

The Knights of Columbus was founded by the Rev. Michael J. McGivney, in New Haven, Connecticut on March 29, 1882, and its mission was to organize Catholic men into a fraternal order and to promote the concepts of the Catholic Church and strengthen the Catholic family units.

The Knights of Columbus grew rapidly in the United States, and extended councils were organized in San Francisco and Los Angeles in January 19 and 26th 1902, respective, with 427 members in the two councils.

On October 30, 1904, the local Knights of Columbus Council #905, the 9th council in California, was organized in San Bernardino with 35 members, and initiated at the Odd Fellows Hall on "F" Street, with Joseph Devin elected as the first Grand Knight.

The following year (1905), E. M. Boyle and J. F. Devin were the first delegates to the state convention in Oxnard, and since that time, local delegates have represented the Council at State Conventions and at the National Supreme Conventions. Since World War II, well-known known community persons Leonard Broderick, Joseph Gintz, Thomas

Continue on page 4

SBCO SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SPONSORS SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT

The SBCSS Gangs and Drugs Task Force convened a School Safety Summit of educators, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations and community-at-large to address the gang problem in the County of San Bernardino.



The Gangs and Drugs Task Force speakers at the School Safety Summit in Ontario are pictured (l to r) County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Herbert Fischer, Ontario Chief of Police Jim Doyle, Under Sheriff Bob Pepler, District Attorney Mike Ramos, and Probation Department Director Rick Arden. Photo by IEHN See article on page 3

MEXICO TO AID VISITORS THROUGH PAISANO PROGRAM



Mexican Consul Carlos Giralt Cabrales, right, introduces Mario Perez, western region director of the Mexican Government's Paisano Program. Perez reviewed the Paisano Program to Mexican nationals and legal residents planning to visit Mexico during the Christmas holidays. Thousands of visitors are expected to travel into every state in Mexico. Photo by IEHN

Visitors will be able to reach their destinations during the Christmas holidays and throughout the year with an improved travel system to Mexico without encountering the many previous negative experiences by Mexican nationals and tourists from the United States, stated Mario Perez, western regional director of the Mexican Government's Paisano Program, speaking to a large audience at the Mexican Consulate in San

Bernardino.

The presentation was geared for the many residents in the United States that yearly visit families, relatives and friends during the Christmas holidays in nearly every state in Mexico. Perez reviewed the Guia Paisano, an 80 page guide describing the laws and regulations governing visitors traveling to Mexico, including the importance of registering vehicles, declaring gifts for tax purposes and other items to prevent problems when returning to the United States.

More importantly, stated Perez, is the Mexican Government added as-



urance to visitors that custom agents and law enforcement officials will be prevented from harassing visitor for soliciting bribes on non-existing regulations.

The Mexican government, according to Perez, has severely enforced strict discipline guidelines for many officials and employees, and many have been disciplined for corruptive practices.

The Mexican Government has instituted preventive measures by organizing a core of observers strategically placed to monitor custom and police officials. An additional monitoring system in place is also available for visitors confronted with solicitation for bribes. A complaint process includes a toll-free telephone number or a complaint form with a pre-addressed envelope where a grievance may be documented and mailed. "We encourage visitors to immediately complain when an official becomes abusive or asked for a bribe," Perez said.

There are an estimated ten million Mexican nationals and legal residents

in the United States, and the Mexican Government recognizes the importance of ensuring that their former residents are treated well while visiting. Heretofore, visitors were not welcomed, one reason due to decades of conflict between the two governments.

Mexican nationals in the United States, numbering in the millions, are major contributors to the Mexican economy. On a yearly basis, economists have estimated that approximately \$12 to \$15 billion is sent back, the second largest source of income besides oil from foreign sources.

Perez said that an enormous number of persons will be visiting and recommended that pre-planning is advisable by visiting consular offices and obtaining permits, vehicle requirements and other necessary official paperwork to avoid long waits at border points.

The Mexican Consulate Office is located at 293 North "D" Street, San Bernardino, Ca. 92401, telephone no. (909) 889-9808.

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BACA ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Hispanic Caucus elected Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) Vice Chair of the caucus for the 109th Congress today. Rep. Baca was unanimously elected during the caucus' organizational meeting for the upcoming session of Congress.

"I am honored that my colleagues have chosen me to serve as vice chair of the caucus," said Rep. Baca. "Our agenda for the next two years will be intense, and I look forward to working diligently on issues that affect the Hispanic community."

As Vice Chair, Rep. Baca will have a direct role in shaping the policy agenda of the CHC, a caucus of 22 members of Hispanic descent who are dedicated to voicing and advancing issues affecting Hispanics.

"As the largest minority group in the United States, it is crucial that Hispanics have a voice in Congress," said Rep. Baca. "The members of the CHC will focus our efforts for the

next two years on promoting issues that are important to Hispanics, such as affordable healthcare, increased education funding, civil rights and job creation."

Rep. Baca served as the second vice chair of the caucus in the 108th Congress and as the whip in the 107th caucus. He is the first Hispanic from California's Inland Empire to serve in Congress.

"Since I became a member five years ago, the caucus has experienced unprecedented growth in respect and political clout," said Rep. Baca. "We must make sure that we capitalize on this growth and take a strong stand on the issues that are important to our community."

Rep. Baca will also retain his position as chair of the CHC Corporate America Task Force. The goal of the task force is to bring the Hispanic community and the corporate world together through increasing corporate diversity, responsibility and education and recruitment.

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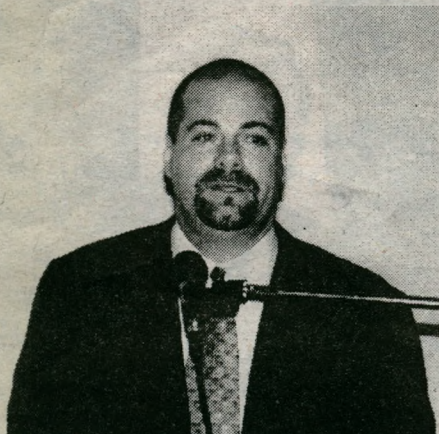
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SBCO SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SPONSORS SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT

The SBCSS Gangs and Drugs Task Force convened a School Safety Summit of educators, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations and community-at-large to address the gang problem in the County of San Bernardino.



Paul Callanan, senior probation officer III, was a keynote speaker at the School Safety Summit held in Ontario. Callanan prepared the 2003 Preliminary Assessment Survey and discussed its findings at the Summit. Photo by IEHN

Over 200 school administrators, law enforcement officials, program operators and citizens heard experts from various agencies speak in specific terms to the alarming problem of gangs and their effect on public safety in the county, held at the Ontario Police Department.

Dr. Herbert Fischer, County Superintendent of Schools spoke on the major problems of gangs and the negative affect on the education systems and primarily the future of gang members.

Others speakers included Under Sheriff Bob Peppler, Sheriff's Department, District Attorney Michael Ramos, Rick Arden, Director, Probation Department and Jim Doyle, Ontario Chief of Police.

Paul Callanan, senior probation officer III and executive member of the Gangs and Drugs Task Force (GDTF), spoke on the 2003 Preliminary Assessment Survey, administered to 470 county agencies, school districts, community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, district attorney's office, and state and county correction agencies, and completed in 2004. The Survey results were previously presented to the GDTF at their July 14 2004, meeting.

The Survey, compiled by GDTF and prepared by Callanan, reflected that gang homicides were up 25 percent in 2003 since the previous year and up nearly 70 percent from 2001. Karen Bell, GDTF chair and chief deputy district attorney, stated then that she was not surprised that despite the growth of gang violence since 2001, proven gang intervention programs were non-existent.

In continuing his report, Callanan said that approximately 11,639-gang members, and 287 gangs have been identified in the county. The geographical region most populated by gangs is the Central Valley, specifically Fontana and east to San Bernardino and adjacent areas. The cost of

detention and commitment of gang members in state and local facilities resulted in an enormous financial impact on the county, with a low estimate of approximately \$25-\$30 million a year.

School administrators responding to the survey found that tagging crews, drug groups and gangs were identified as the most disruptive presence on school campuses. Approximately 70 percent of school administrators reported observing one or more indicators of gang presence on campuses, with 50 percent indicating the presence of gangs has increased the number of problems on school campuses.

Callanan said that based on the National Youth Gang Center, in 2002 there were approximately 731,500 gang members and 21,500 active gangs in the United States, with large cities and suburban counties accounting for 85 percent of estimated gang members in that year.

Callanan described the types of gang crimes, either a gang related, where a suspect or offender was identified as a gang member, or gang motivated, where a crime was committed at the direction of, for a benefit of, or in association with the street gang.

In summarizing his talk, Callanan succinctly stated that gang activity is a significant element threatening the quality of life in our communities, and the safety of our neighborhoods and schools. In order to counter gangs and their criminal activities, a comprehensive countywide strategic plan must be implemented that uses suppression, intervention, and prevention techniques in a focused manner.

One of the Summit's keynote speakers, Corporal Shelli Kelly, Sheriff's Department Intelligence Unit, vividly discussed the various gangs in the region and profiles of gang members were displayed on screen with their tattoos and distinctive gang signs.

Linda Miranda, GDTF Executive Director and organizer of the Summit, stated that the summits hosted in May and October 2004, were very timely, given the current resurgence in gang activities. She said that when the GDTF took on the pro-active role of conducting the survey and review of survey results, a question was asked, "where do we go from here?"

A subsequent decision, Miranda said, was the convening of top elected officials and policy makers in July, with a commitment to work collectively, forming a "steering committee" to develop the "countywide strategic plan".

The GDTF continues to serve as the lead agency, led by Paul Callanan,



Linda Miranda, Gang and Drugs Task Force Executive Director, was the organizer of the School Safety Summit in Ontario, attended by over 200 school administrators, law enforcement. Photo by IEHN

in coordinating efforts via meetings and regional efforts.

The "steering committee" will reconvene in January 2005, to review the progress in the further development of the strategic plan, Miranda said.

As a result of the 2003 Preliminary

NINFA DELGADO -A HEALTH ADVOCATE



Ninfa Delgado, Riverside Community Health Foundation- Director of Community Outreach. Photo by IEHN

Ninfa Delgado has dedicated her career to alleviate the social, health and education barriers prevalent in youth, parents, and specific target groups identified in need of remedial, prevention and intervention programs.

"As a first generation Mexican-American, I have grown up witnessing the many barriers that many adults and youth face, and have a compassion to aid by working in the communities where the need exists," Delgado said.

Raised in Whittier, Delgado, fluent in English and Spanish, has resided in Riverside for 12 years. Graduating from the University of California, Riverside with a joint major in Sociology and Ethnic Studies, and a minor in Chicano Bilingual Studies in 1995, she has devoted her career and community involvement

Assessment Survey presented to the GDTF in July, 2004, indicating an upturn in gang crime throughout the county, law enforcement agencies are renewing the SMASH program (San Bernardino Movement Against Street Crime), an effective anti-gang coordinated effort to curb gang activity from 1982 through the 1990's. SMASH was gradually reduced due to decline in gang activities, other police priorities, and budget restraints.

The Sheriff's Department will administer the unit with officers from every law enforcement agencies, including probation and parole agencies, participating in joint operations in identified trouble areas in the county. Intelligence operations in every police agency, including gang and member identification, modus operandi, and other information, will be a key component in compiling a data base in fighting gang activities.

The SMASH program is currently being considered as an integral unit by police departments in the county.

with families, youth, and children.

As a research assistant at UCR, Delgado worked with families in East Los Angeles, generating data for government-funded research dealing with handicapped children among Latino families in that area. She has also attended 15 seminars and courses to enhance her professional education.

Her professional career has evolved in working with families and youth. She worked as an outreach counselor with the Youth Service Center and program developer with People Reaching Out, programs under the auspices of the Inland Agency. She previously was Health Care Social Worker with the Riverside County Community Health Agency, working with teens through Adolescent Family Services for six years.

In 2004, Delgado was appointed director of Community Outreach for the Riverside Community Health Foundation. She is responsible for the development and management of outreach activities, development of community partnerships, development of marketing strategies and proposal development.

Involved in her community, Delgado's memberships include Arlington Temporary Assistance, UCR Chicano Latino Advisory Committee (chair), Inland Agency Desert Sierra Partnership, Grupo Folklorico Tonatiuh, Healthy Kids Planning Committee and a myriad of social/health community groups.

THE MEANING OF THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY ON THE HILL OF TEPEYAC

Behold the Woman, Clothed as With the Sun

By Father Edmund Gomez

Continued from page 1

Mexico, the modern nation) symbolizes how it is heaven that frees us from evils that are as sublime and as stealthy as serpents. The earth is to be respected because it contains such quiet and surprising evils. The earth is not benign, but demands respect even as she provides for us, inspiring fear as well as gratitude. Thus, the name that Mary gives for herself is tequialope, the lady that crushes the head of the serpent, which was mistranslated as Guadalupe. For any Christian, the serpent recalls the Garden of Eden and the seduction of our first parents in the Book of Genesis. The Lord, our God promises that the woman would strike at the head of the serpent while the serpent could only strike at her heel. The image of the Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception, shows her doing just that – a woman defeating the age-old enemy of our happiness, the serpent, or devil. With this new vision from heaven, we Christians gain a deeper understanding of our relationship to the earth. Earth is not our enemy, but there is an enemy who uses the earth and its forces against man and woman. Our relationship with the earth as a true mother has been restored by what this woman has done in her obedience to God.

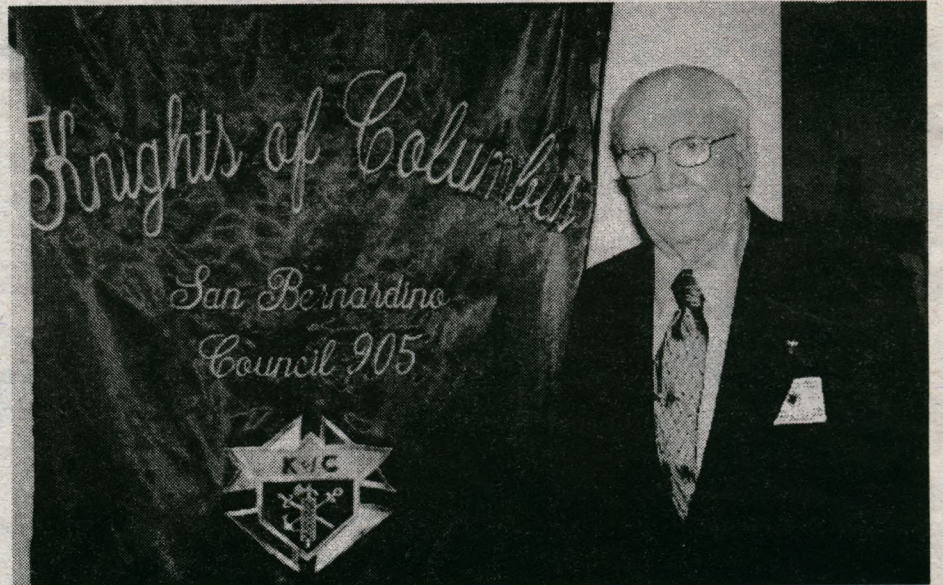
Which is why Her image is everywhere in our continent. To believe that God works such wonders in a woman – it still is a stretch for us, and should make us appreciate more of the gifts in all women and men. After all, that is the point of the account in the Gospel of Luke as Mary is greeted by an angel and given the invitation to become the mother of the son of heaven and the king of every land and nation. It is also the point of the account in Revelation 12 where the woman is giving birth, but the great monster was waiting to de-

vour the child and then to wage war on her children when thwarted in this plan. She is "clothed with the Sun, standing on the moon with twelve stars on Her head for a crown." I couple this with the Church's understanding that the meaning of the Book of Revelation is an allegory about the young Christian Church and its worship of the Christ of God, Jesus, as God-made-flesh, and its great nemeses or the Antichrists, the Empress of Rome and Persia. Mary's life contains the struggle of the Church to live in this world as much as it is her own life's struggle of the Church to live in this world as much as it is her own life's struggle to understand the plan of God and her place in it. Quickly, she becomes the image of the perfect disciple, what we must be in this world – her response to God, accepting the consequences of doing God's will; the conflict with the world's ways and Way of the Christ, and the experience of death and resurrection in those whom she loved, beginning with her own son. A Christian easily sees in her what is inside of themselves and their life's challenges. The wonder and awe of God in her life becomes our model to imitate as followers of Jesus.

How does an image hold such a power? Whatever image of Our Lady – the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth – that one sees, the image beyond the style and quality of the artistic depiction fascinates people, even those who are not beholding to her as the Mother of the Savior. And I assert that it simply is because she is one of us, chosen as we all are chosen to imitate the work of God in our mother, the woman whom He chose to be His own mother.

Father Edmund Gomez is parish priest at Immaculate Conception and San Salvador Churches, Colton.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 905 CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Thomas Sullivan, above, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 905, San Bernardino. Sullivan is the oldest serving local Knight, entering Order in Corona, New York in 1937 and a member of Council 905 since 1940. Photo by IEHN

Sullivan and Donald Harbauer have represented the Council at the Supreme Conventions.

Since its founding, generations of active members have contributed toward the advancement of the Council 905, and 100 outstanding members have served as Grand Knights. Members have also served in various positions at the state level.

The Knights Ladies are an integral and important component to the council order and participate in its activities and community outreach programs. The Squires are the Order's youth group, ages 10 to 17, trained in moral ethics, involved in youth activities and cooperative community functions with Council members. Squires are eligible to become Knights at age 18.

Council 905, as a religious and benevolent order has a tradition of volunteerism, supports members in need and in emergencies; sponsor students scholarships; donates funds and goods to Mary's Table,

Veronica's Home, School of Hope, eight adopted parishes, Catholic Charities, and other local groups; donated \$10,000 to the San Francisco earthquake and equivalent amount to the Haiti's homeless; sponsored the Little League at 14th Street ballpark for many years. Bishop's Purse, and myriad of contributions to the community.

The Council members also enjoy many social activities, starting with a New Year's party, Valentine dance, St. Patrick Day, luau parties, special dinners, observing religious days, golf tournaments, casino nights, and other events throughout the year.

Thomas Sullivan, an exceptionally active member, joined the Knights in Corona, New York, and transferred to Council 905 in 1937. "I have enjoyed being a Knight for 67 years, doing my share of many good things and will continue to serve until the end," he said in a telephone interview.

HISPANIC EMPLOYEES ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



San Bernardino Hispanic Employees Alliance held its Annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Palm Meadows Golf Club. Keynote speaker was Congressman Joe Baca. Scholarship recipients: (not in order) Gustavo Cisneros, Crista Cristo, Dayanara Garcia, Veronica Gonzalez, Stacy Guzman, Marcella Hill, Nikki Olivas, Rena Ramirez, Ernest Rivera, Adriana Rodriguez and Dora Rubalcava. Second from right, Congressman Joe Baca and at center, 5th District Supervisor-elect Josie Gonzales. Photo by IEHN

GREATER RIVERSIDE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 26TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & TRADE SHOW

Where: Marriott Riverside,
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Baseline Rd., Rialto
Dedication of Ball field to
Congressman Joe Baca,
43rd District

NEW HORIZONS

The Past, Present and Future of Latinos in America According to Harry Pachón

The following article is the second of two series by IEHN, reprinted with permission of Wendy Pedrero, Editor, Latino Leaders Magazine.

LL: In many political campaigns and speeches, candidates vacillate when talking about the future agenda for Latinos. What are the top five elements that you think should be addressed?

P: I would see them in rank order from one to five as:

1. Education

We are younger by an average of ten years than mainstream America, which means many in our community have children in public schools. Education is very important to the Latino community. We show it repeatedly in our support for education. In the TRPI surveys, education always ranks as number one or number two.

2. Job opportunities/economic development

How is the economy doing? Are meaningful jobs present?

3. Crime.

People are affected by crime and they want to see law and order in their communities. Although it is better than Latin America in many cases, it is still very troublesome.

4. Health Insurance

5. Drugs

We are worried about our children, and that comes through in surveys as well.

LL: Where do you see the Latino community in the US in the next 50 years?

P: Many people are not going to like this, but America is going to be a little more *morenito* (dark-skinned) than we are now because of the blending of Hispanics and the traditional European stock in America. There is going to be an integration of Latinos into

American society in the most meaningful way. Since one out of every two third-generation Latinos out-marry, we are going to see a range in skin colorations that we have never had in this country before.

There will be either a president or vice president of the United States who will be of Hispanic background, which will be an indication of political integration in America. Rather than people talking about Latinos as poor immigrants or with the unfortunate stereotypes of a person speaking with an accent, Latinos will be like Italian-Americans who are spread throughout American society. I see a very positive future for the Latino community.

LL: This is a country where media and pop culture is very strong in our everyday lives. We are already influenced by Mexican and Latin American food, TV shows, movie stars, etc.

Do you see pop culture being even more influenced by the Hispanic Community in the future?

P: Undoubtedly. We have a wave of young Latinos who are coming of age and an ever-increasing percentage of the market segment between the ages of 18 and 30. As more people of Latino background reach that age bracket, marketers and private sector industries will respond to that segment through pop culture with Latino stars in the movies and on TV. It is going to be a different culture altogether. We already have the cliché that salsa and ketchup is neck-and-neck in sales. Well, in 50 years from now, salsa is going to be like pizza. It is going to

be another American food. I see an integration that is very positive. If we could have a time machine and travel to the future, we would not recognize the progress we have made because it has been so rapid and so dramatic. We will see Latinos at all levels of government: we will see much more bilingualism. We will not solely look east or west; we will also look south.

LL: Do you see Latinos as having a greater advancement over other segments of American society in future government?

P: Rather than seeing it as a competition, I see it like we are all building a ship. That ship is the American society. Latinos just make this ship bigger and stronger and better able to weather the storms and the negative conditions that we face as a country, I see us working together with others. For the immigrant, that is still the land of opportunity. If you go to Venezuela or Columbia or the Dominican Republic and ask why people want to come to the US, they will say for opportunity. Progress is possible. We refresh the American ethic that hard work, merit and dedication will get you ahead, and that is what Latinos add to this country's ethic.

LL: Do you see any rising Latino leadership that could serve not just the Latino community but the general society?

P: I respectfully with the premise of the question. We already have leaders like that. Henry Cisneros is not only a Latino leader, he is an American leader. They send them to do foreign policy negotiations for the country, for God's sake! Congressmen Javier Becerra, Antonio Villaraigosa, or Ileana Ros-Lichtinen from Florida, are American leaders. Latinos are already in those positions.

LL: But still too few.

P: Yes, still too few. I do not agree that people should be looking for one Latino leader to come out. Look, the Jewish community in the United States is very powerful, much respected, and rightfully so. Name me the one Jewish leader that is above everybody.

LL: There is nobody visible.

P: But nobody doubts the effectiveness and the political power of the community. That is what we have to emulate. We do not need to look for a Jesse Jackson, we need to look for all those unnamed Jewish leaders that we can emulate and see another possible road to community advancement. We should not have one single leader, but rather multiple leaders. We should not be looking for the cacique, for the man on horseback. We should be looking for the many, many soldiers behind him. The soldiers are the ones that do all the fighting.

LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA OFFERS FREE EXPERT PROGRAM ON STATE OF THE ART IN LUPUS RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

**Free Education Program for People with Lupus,
their Families and Healthcare Professionals**

On Saturday, December 11, the Lupus Foundation of America will conduct a free educational program featuring several of the nation's leading experts on lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that affects approximately 1.5 million Americans, mostly women. The experts will speak about the latest advances in managing and treating lupus, with a focus on systemic complications of the disease.


The program aims to educate both physicians and patients on the latest advances in management and treatment of lupus. Lupus experts will discuss lupus genetics, skin disease, renal disease, and clinical challenges of managing lupus.

The program will be held at the

Westin Century Plaza Hotel and Spa, 2025 Avenue of the Stars, in Los Angeles. **There is no charge to attend the program.**

The free afternoon session is open to people with lupus, as well as their friends and family, and begins at 1:00 p.m. Leading lupus experts will answer questions in special breakout discussion groups. A session for medical professionals only will be held in the morning beginning at 8:00 a.m.

For additional information, and to register online for this free education program, visit the Lupus Foundation of America website at www.lupus.org. Click on the link to register for "Lupus Now: State of the Art from Lupus Experts." To register by phone, call toll-free 1-800-374-0519.

	
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BACA SECURES FUNDING FOR INLAND EMPIRE PROJECTS

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto) announced today that Congress has approved several of his requests for Inland Empire project funding as part of the omnibus appropriations act for fiscal year 2005.

"I am proud to announce funding for these projects that are crucial to the Inland Empire," said Rep. Baca. "This funding will improve education at our local schools, help our law enforcement agencies keep crime off our streets, reduce traffic congestion, keep our water clean and revitalize our cities."

"I am pleased that the Inland Empire congressional delegation worked together on a bipartisan basis to secure funding for several of the projects," said Rep. Baca. "When members of Congress work together, we can deliver more to our constituents."

Inland Empire funding highlights:
Labor, Health and Human Services and Education

- \$320,000 to the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools for the Virtual High-Tech High School.
- \$320,000 to the Fontana Teen Center for the expansion of activities for grades 10th-12th.
- \$500,000 to the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools for the English Language Learners Initiative.

Commerce, Justice, State & Judiciary

- \$200,000 to the City of Fontana for an Advanced Communications Network.
- \$200,000 to the City of Colton for the Colton Police Activities League (PAL) Program.
- \$100,000 to the City of Colton Police Communications Equipment Project.

Transportation

- \$1.25 million to the City of Rialto for the I-10 Riverside Avenue Interchange.
- \$500,000 to the City of Fontana for the Interstate 10/Cypress Avenue Overcrossing.
- \$5 million to the City of San Bernardino for the I-10 Tippecanoe Interchange.

Veterans Administration-Housing and Urban Development

- \$150,000 to the City of Rialto for the Perchlorate Wellhead Treatments.
- \$72,750 to the City of San Bernardino Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for the Expansion of the Perris Hill Park Senior Center.
- \$450,000 to the City of San Bernardino for the Downtown Revitalization Project, formerly Lakes and Streams.
- \$280,000 to the National Orange Show for enhancements to the National Orange Show grounds.

NEW SURVEY SHOWS HISPANIC SMOKERS DON'T SEEK HELP WHEN GIVING UP TOBACCO

American Legacy Foundation® Launches New Campaign to Promote Quit Line

WASHINGTON, DC – Close to 40 percent of Hispanic smokers have tried to quit smoking in the last year, but a majority of them attempt it alone and opt to go cold turkey, according to results of a survey released today by the American Legacy Foundation. The foundation released the results to launch new public service announcements in Spanish that encourage smokers to quit for the sake of the family and to seek help when they do so.

According to the American Legacy Foundation's American Smoking and Health Survey (ASHES) I and II, Hispanic smokers want to quit – 76.3 percent of Hispanic smokers are seriously thinking of quitting smoking cigarettes and among them 59.3 percent are seriously planning to quit within 6 months. However, only a small percentage of Hispanics utilized available help. Just 5.3 percent of those who tried to quit smoking relied on a telephone help line, 5.7 percent used a stop smoking class, and 6.3 percent visited a clinic or support group, or received one-on-one counseling.

"The good news is that Hispanic smokers want to break free of their smoking addiction, but are finding success a challenge without assistance," said Elmer Huerta, M.D., board member of the American Legacy Foundation. "The time is now for smokers to create one's own destiny and legacy by taking the extra step and seeking the help they need to quit smoking for good."

More than 70 percent of Hispanic smokers surveyed said that setting a good example for a child was a good reason to quit smoking. Only 52.7 percent of Whites responded similarly.

"Recent studies have shown that Hispanics who smoke avoid lighting up at home in order to protect loved ones," he said. "While that is a laudable effort, smokers should remember that protecting their own health and setting a good example for the family are vital reasons to make this time the one that counts by making every effort to quit smoking altogether."

The American Legacy Foundation has a general information line which provides information on quitting. By calling 1-800-4-A-LEGACY, callers will have access to Spanish materials which can offer help with developing a plan to quit smoking.

The American Legacy Foundation encourages smokers who want to quit to follow some basic recommendations.

• **Write it down** – Write down your reasons for quitting smoking and post it somewhere where you will see it often.

• **Form your circle of friends** – Enlist your friends and family members to help you with your efforts to give up smoking and ask those who smoke not to do so around you.

• **Pick a quit day** – Decide now what day you will quit smoking, write it down and stick to it.

• **Keep a tab of your cravings** – Before your quit day, note when and why you smoke.

• **Deal with it** – Look at your smoking triggers and develop a plan on dealing with them. If you smoke with friends, tell them about your decision and ask for their support, or if you smoke to relieve stress, plan on calling a friend to get you through your rough spot.

"Developing a plan is the key to success," said Dr. Huerta. "But if a smoker has a relapse, they shouldn't give up. Instead, a smoker can look at their plan, find ways to make it better and then renew the effort to quit."

The American Legacy Foundation® is dedicated to building a world where young people reject tobacco and anyone can quit. Located in Washington, D.C., the foundation develops programs that address the health effects of tobacco use through grants, technical assistance and training, youth activism, strategic partnerships, counter-marketing and grassroots marketing campaigns, public relations, and outreach to populations disproportionately affected by the toll of tobacco.

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Where: Gents Community Center,
1461 East Art Townsend Dr., San Bernardino CA 92408

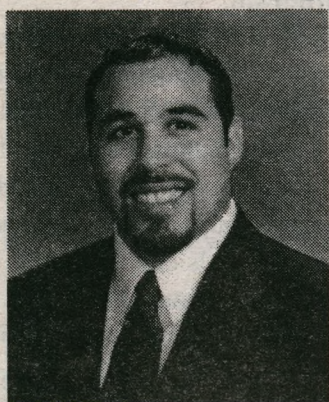
When: Friday, April 1, 2005 at 7:00 a.m.

Cost: \$10.00 per person in advance, \$15.00 at the door

To reserve tickets: Mail your contribution to I.C.H.R. –

Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast;
468 W. 5th St. San Bernardino, CA 92401.

For more information and to RSVP
call I.C.H.R. at (909) 885-5777



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WHO'S WATCHING YOUR CHILD?

Child Care Provider Offers Information About Daycare

CLEVELAND – Thousands of children go to daycare every day, but many parents hire childcare providers without researching them properly, writes Miss Peggy Lee. Her new book, *Who's Keeping Your Children? Wouldn't You Like to Know?* (now available through AuthorHouse), is a realistic account of situations she encountered in her own in-home childcare business and the shocking problems she has seen in her colleagues' businesses.

At some point in every child's life, his or her parents rely on others such as teachers, neighbors or daycare employees for caregiving. Lee runs a childcare business in her home, with most of her salary provided from welfare vouchers. She offers a unique perspective into the daily routines of a one-woman, in-home childcare operation. Her caring attitude toward the children she has watched is evident throughout the book, and her observations are profound and thought-provoking.

Lee describes the tenuous situations with children who were not properly cared for at home and relied on her for support and everyday necessities. Stories about parents who

cared less about the quality of child care than about plans for the weekend are juxtaposed against stories about fellow providers who not only lied to welfare departments about the work they were doing, but also manipulated parents into not believing their own children, who often came to them with stories of mistreatment.

Everything from laughter and hope to theft and neglect fill the pages of *Who's Keeping Your Children? Wouldn't You Like to Know?* It is a call to parents to take an active role in assessing their children's caretakers by a woman who makes readers hopeful that there are dedicated child advocates hard at work in America.

Lee, a child care provider, is the mother of three children. She has written several children's books that await publication.

AuthorHouse is the world leader in publishing and print-on-demand services. Founded in 1997, AuthorHouse has helped more than 20,000 people worldwide become published authors. For more information, visit www.authorhouse.com.

MY PERSPECTIVE ON STEM CELLS AND THE LATINO COMMUNITY

By Dr. Jorge Partida

As a doctor, I have followed closely the increasingly heated debate about embryonic stem cell research. The debate has arisen not only in the current electoral campaign, but also in California where a ballot proposition, Prop 71, would provide funding for research for some ten years.

Notwithstanding the potential for the discovery of new technologies to apply science to new ways of treating diseases and saving lives, we are still some 15 to 20 years away from being able to apply them. There is however, a source of stem cells—the umbilical cords of newborns – that are being used today to treat about 70 diseases, from leukemia to congestive heart failure to brain tumors.

The debate, although well focused is incomplete. Because if a viable source of stem cells already exists, then families should be made aware of the option of using umbilical cords to “harvest” and store stem cells than can be used for future medical treatment.

There are three sources of stem cells. The first, embryonic, are from 4 to 7 days old. But they do not know yet what they want to be when they grow up. And, as stated above, many more years of research are required before being able to transplant them successfully.

The second source is the umbilical cord of a new born. Obviously these cells do not injure the embryo, require no surgery, are readily available, and are already being saved in special “banks” for future use in the treatment of diseases that family members may have. These cells are young (9 months) and are more flexible. They are 100% genetically compatible, which means that they yield better clinical results.

The third source is bone marrow. Cells from this source, however, are old, or between 40 and 50 years, and they are not as flexible as those from the umbilical cord or the embryo.

Obtaining them is more complicated, and their genetic compatibility is difficult to assure.

What is a tragedy is that the umbilical cords of some 4 million newborns are discarded every year – only 2% are used for taking blood for stem cells. And worst of all, Latina mothers and their families are not aware of the option to save the stem cells and use them later to save lives.

The Latino Connection

This is very important. Latinos are the ones who are having the most children, the ones who most lack medical insurance, and the ones who must overcome language and cultural barriers to become a ward and obtain medical care.

Fortunately, the leading company in the processing and storage of umbilical cord stem cells understands the Latino community very well and has taken measures to help it. It is called the Cord Blood Registry, and it has created a program known as the Designated Transplant Program, or DTP. The company donates the processing and storage of stem cells. This is a laudable example of concrete responsible action. But obviously it is not enough.

So the debate rages over the merits and cost of stem cell research. Meanwhile, there are many persons who suffer from diseases that can be treated now with stem cells from the umbilical cords of newborns. It is a shame.

Information must be made available through all of the mass communications media available in our much loved Latino Community. In this way, we can save many lives and cure many diseases.

Note: Dr. Jorge Partida is the director of the Casa del Toro Health Center in Berkeley, California and is the former Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse, Department of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco.



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When: Saturday, December 11, 2004,
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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AND FAMILY FESTIVAL**

Latino Literacy Now & Edward James Olmos present the Inland Empire Latino Book and Family Festival. Please join and support us in our work to reduce illiteracy, promote literacy excellence and advance the cause of reading in the Latino community. More importantly, help support our children's education within our community. The festival, co-hosted by the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the San Bernardino City Unified School District and the Diocese of San Bernardino, will take place at the Carousel Mall- San Bernardino. Over the course of the past seven years the Festival has evolved into the largest Latino Consumer Expo in the United States, now serving 8 of the top 10 Latino markets in the country.

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de los límites de una propiedad. Siempre que necesite cavar, estará el riesgo de encontrarse con líneas de gas natural, electricidad, agua, teléfono o cable.

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Dig Alert. Dentro de dos días laborales luego de su llamada, cada servicio público visitará su propiedad y marcará dónde se encuentran sus instalaciones; para que de esta forma usted o su contratista pueda cavar con seguridad. El no obtener la ubicación apropiada de las líneas de los servicios subterráneos puede tener como consecuencia multas significativas y costosas facturas de reparación.

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